



European Metal Trade and Recycling Federation

PRESS RELEASE

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Scrap theft raises concern

At the last plenary meeting of EUROMETREC on 27th September 2006 in Brussels, members of the European metal trade and recycling federation expressed great concern about the growing number of metals theft which is currently seriously affecting the non-ferrous metals industry in general and the metal scrap sector in particular.

For some months now, rising prices for metal scrap, which is a major commodity and raw material(*) on the world market, have been leading to a very sharp increase of the number of thefts.

Guardrails from roadways, metallic structures from buildings, man-hole covers, copper or steel wire and even trucks fully loaded with metal scrap are regularly being stolen by thieves.

Scrap operators and recyclers must protect their scrap inventories and also ensure that they do not inadvertently buy stolen material from illegal merchants. Affiliates to EUROMETREC member federations abide by a strict code of conduct which might lead to the expulsion of a company that fails to respect the rules.

To protect the sector, EUROMETREC member associations have set up e-mail alerts, which describe the stolen material and which are sent to all their member companies. Also, close cooperation with police services and national law enforcement officials has been established.

The member associations of EUROMETREC have decided to exchange their information about stolen material and scrap on a regular basis.

(*) NOTE:

Between 40-60% of EU unwrought metal production comes from recycling. Through recycling, the metals industry is contributing to EU policies on recycling, waste and use of resources by reducing the environmental impacts associated with the extraction and processing of crude metal ore.

Through recycling, metals scrap operators prevent the disposal of valuable recyclable materials. Recycling of metals is also crucial for decreasing emissions and for energy savings.
